



World Association for Online Education (WAOE) Panel

Building a Free Worldwide Community and Support Structure for Faculty Involved in Online Education

Maggie McVay Lynch, Portland State University, USA

Steve McCarty, Osaka Jogakuin College, Japan

Michael Warner, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, USA

Nicholas Bowskill, University of Sheffield, UK



Meeting a Worldwide Need for Community and Faculty Support for Online Education

**Steve McCarty
Osaka Jogakuin College, Japan
WAOE President**



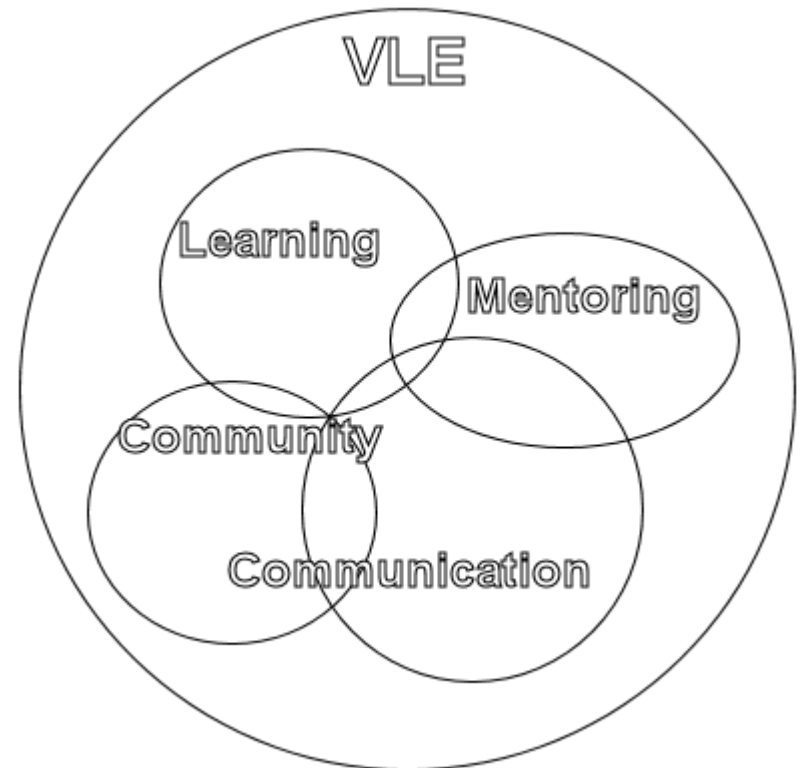
Milestones

- **1996- Teaching in the Community Colleges Online Conferences**
 - **April 1998** Keynote Address proposing WAOE / discussions continue via conference mailing list (Univ. of Hawaii)
- **BBS Constitutional Convention**
- **www.waoe.org** domain registered from Estonia
- **WAOE becomes an NPO (California State Univ. representative)**
- **Affiliated *Journal of Online Education* (New York Univ.)**
- **August 1998- Online elections, parliamentary procedures**
 - **Board of Directors, Coordinating Ring from all over the world**
- **1999- World Culture Festival; Multilingual WAOE project started**
- **2000- Membership dues abolished**
- **2002- Hosting African, Russian and other non-WAOE initiatives**
- **2003- WAOE hosted at Portland State Univ. as a continuing contribution to international society**



Principles & Practices - VLEs

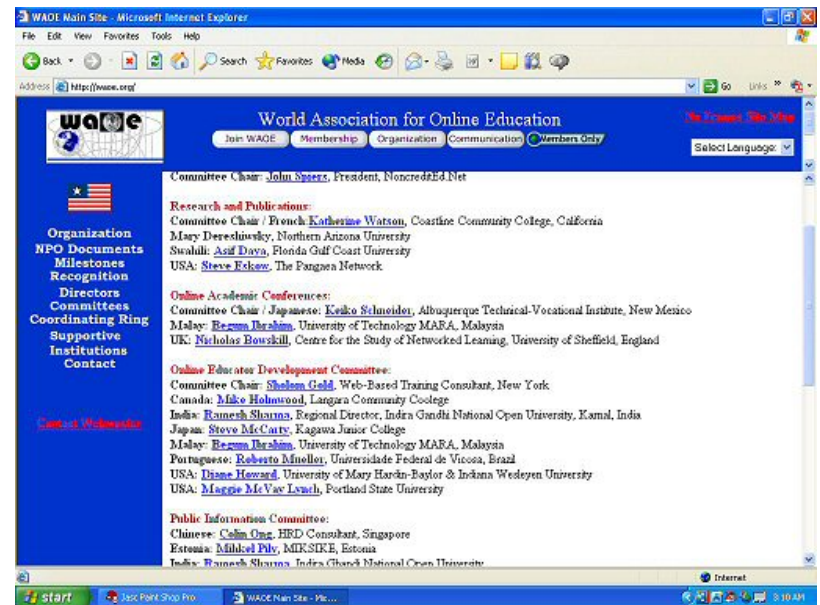
- Web-Based Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs)
 - the WAOE as an open source learning organization & VLE
 - Web-based communication and community at a distance
 - a virtual organization; similarities to a virtual university
 - leveraging technology to amplify non-Western voices





Principles & Practices – pedagogical and cultural exchange

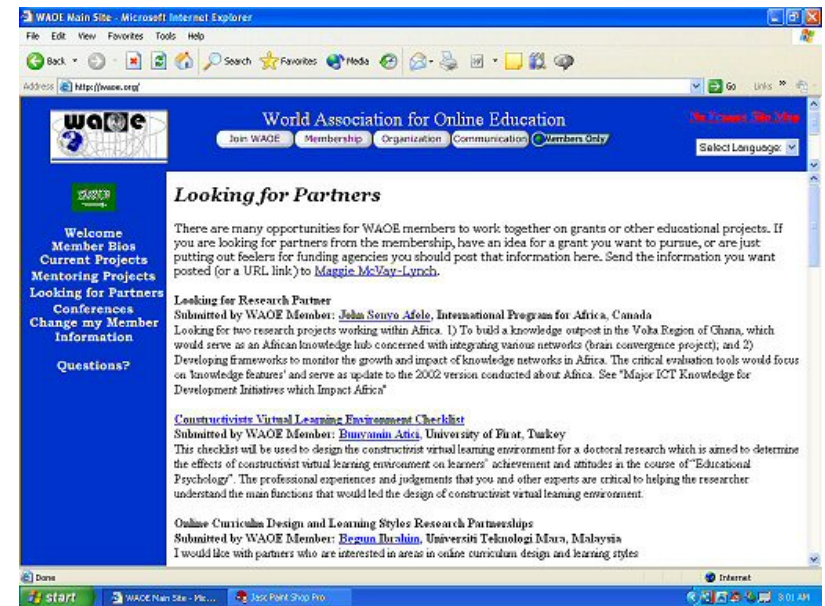
- Free and enjoyable pedagogical & cultural exchange
 - voluntarism; working together at a distance sustainably
 - a global outlook; decentralized, balanced participation
 - mutuality of educational exchanges: east-west, south-north
 - multilingual, multicultural; distance education ethics





Principles and Practices – Defining online education discipline

- Defining online education and making it a discipline
 - a continuous virtual seminar; accumulating expertise
 - a repository & network of practitioners' research & experience
 - exchanges, contributions, collaboration beyond the WAOE

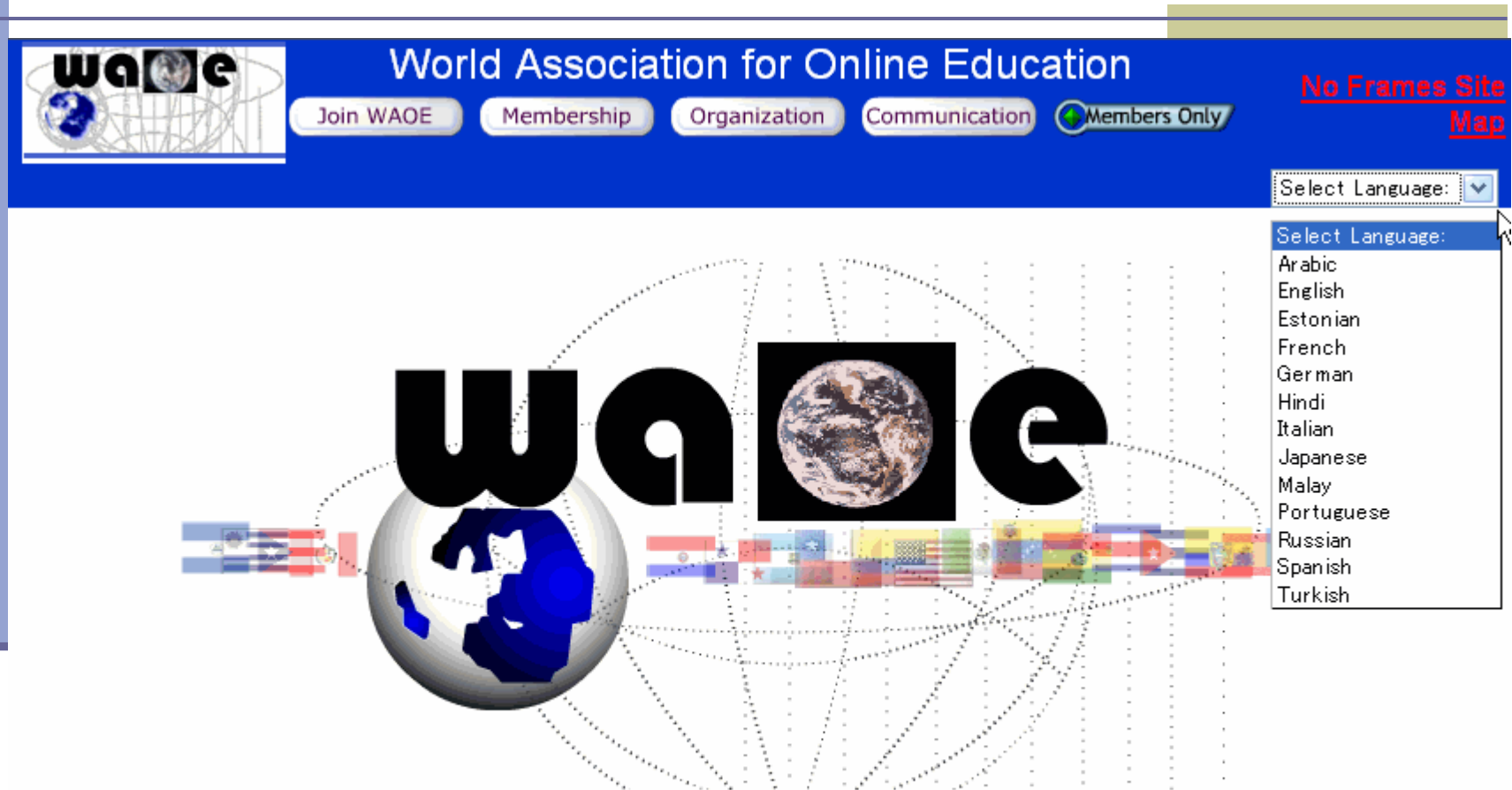




Networking/Collaboration

- Chapters by WAOE Officers in the forthcoming *International Handbook of Virtual Learning Environments* (Univ. of Toronto / Kluwer Academic Publishers):
 - McCarty (Japan), Ibrahim (Malaysia), Sedunov (Russia) & Sharma (India), “Global Online Education”
 - Bowskill (UK), Luke (Canada) & McCarty (Japan), “Global Virtual Organizations for Online Educator Empowerment”
- WAOE officers from 4 countries mentored via audioconferences, other synchronous and asynchronous ICT with WebCT LMS for a graduate course at the national University of Tsukuba, Japan.
 - Chapter proposal on it accepted for the forthcoming *Internet-Based Language Instruction: Pedagogies and Technologies* (Univ. of Southern Queensland, Australia / Asia-Pacific Association for Computer-Assisted Language Learning)

Multilingual sites start at www.waoe.org



Flash file design and execution thanks to [Lucy Mejia Calderon](#), from Colombia.



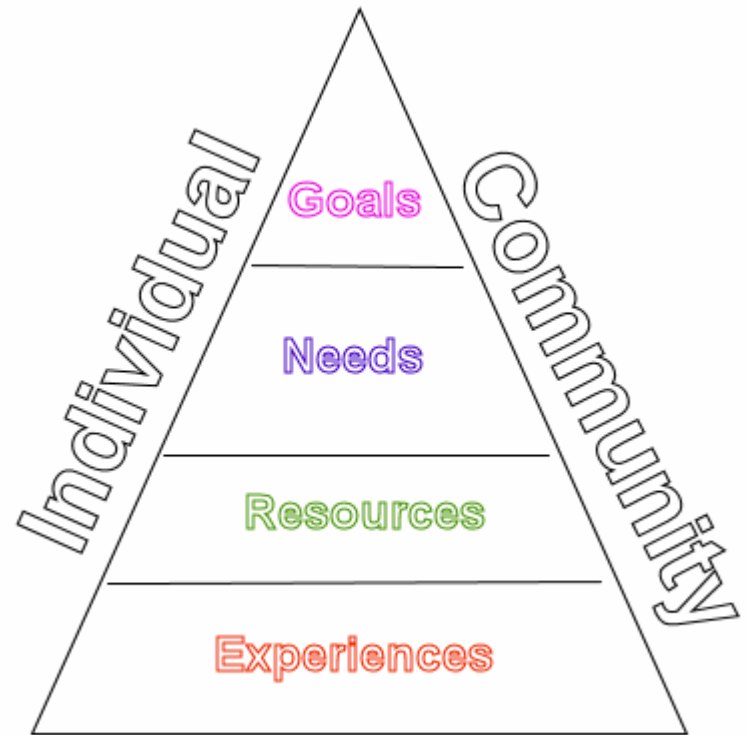
Building Communication and Support Avenues through Technologies

**Michael Warner, Embry-Riddle
Aeronautical University, Arizona, USA
WAOE Cyber-Parliamentarian**



Building a Foundation

- Finding a Common Ground
 - Individual
 - Community
- Assessment Inventory
 - Experiences
 - Resources
 - Needs
 - Goals





Building Communication

- A Common Medium to Build Community
 - Global Society of Eager Volunteers
 - Accommodating Atmosphere
 - Accessibility Issues
 - Available Venue
 - Supportive
 - FREE

The screenshot shows the homepage of the WAOE Electronic Bulletin. At the top, the WAOE logo is on the left, and the text 'VOL 4, NO 2' and 'Mar/Apr/May 2004' is on the right. Below the logo, it says 'WAOE Electronic Bulletin' and 'world association for online education'. A green navigation bar contains links: 'What's New', 'Member Profile', 'Member Projects', 'Reviews', 'Call for Partners', 'Conferences', 'Article#1', 'Article#2', 'Article #3', 'President's Corner', 'Troubleshooting', and 'Archives'. Below this, there is a section titled 'What's New' with a circular graphic. The text in this section announces the 'WAOE 2004 Annual Meeting Set, Nominations for Office Requested' and mentions that it was posted by Michael Warner, Online Parliamentarian. The text continues: 'It is my pleasure to announce the upcoming Annual Members' Meeting which is scheduled to begin online at 3am June 25, 2004 Pacific Daylight Time (1000 GMT), in accordance with the [Bylaws of WAOE, Article 13 Section 2](#). In addition to other business that will be conducted at this meeting, Voting Members of WAOE will be casting votes for Vice President, Secretary, Membership Chairperson, and affirming the Directors' appointment of Dr. Maggie McVay Lynch as the Chief Technology Officer/Director.'

The terms of office for current Vice President, Rafael Molina-Velazquez, Secretary, Jerina Seehafer, and



Facilitating a Virtual Corporation

- A Non-Profit Membership Corporation
- Organizational Structure
- Virtual Meetings
 - Asynchronous vs Synchronous
 - Global Considerations
 - Communication Structure and Order
 - Modified Parliamentary Format
 - Adaptive Robert's Rules of Order
 - Facilitating a Volunteer Board



Ubiquitous Communication?

- A Virtual Community Needs a Voice
 - E-Mail Listserves
 - World Wide Web
 - Web Pages
 - LMS
 - WebBoard
- How Will the Voice Facilitate the Community?
 - As a Structural Framework
 - As a Communication Venue



A Worldwide Faculty Mentoring Project for Creating Online Curriculum

**Nicholas Bowskill, University of Sheffield, UK
WAOE Chair for Mentoring Initiative**



The Initiative and Its Genesis

3 cycles of action research

Increasing Awareness of community affordances

1. An idea is put forward and a group came together to explore it

2. We used that idea as a pilot model to bring other groups together around projects

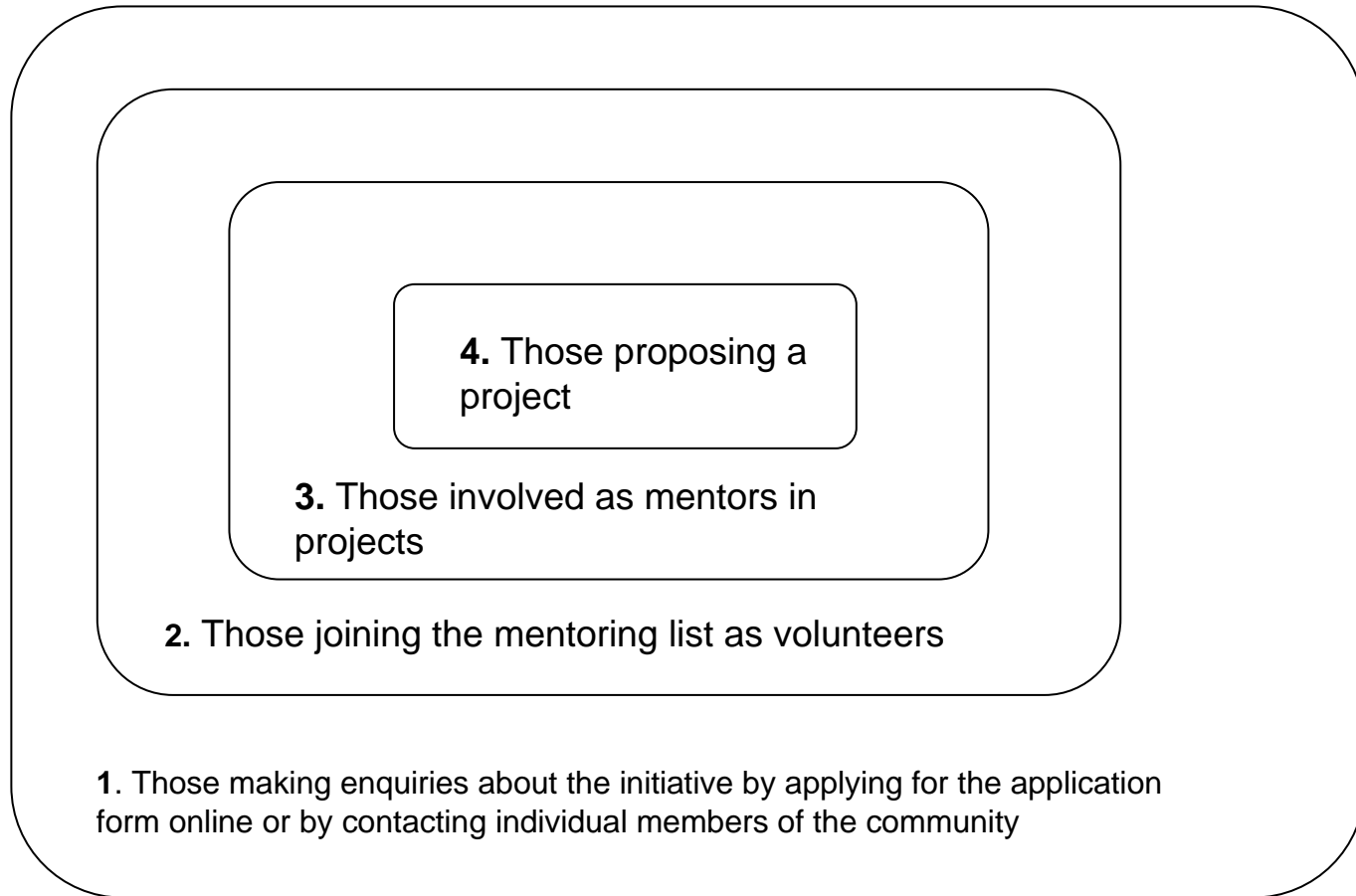
3. We roll it out across the wider WAOE community

Needs technological
Infrastructure and
documentation

Proponents need to be joined in
a pre-team dialogue.
Needs more documentation

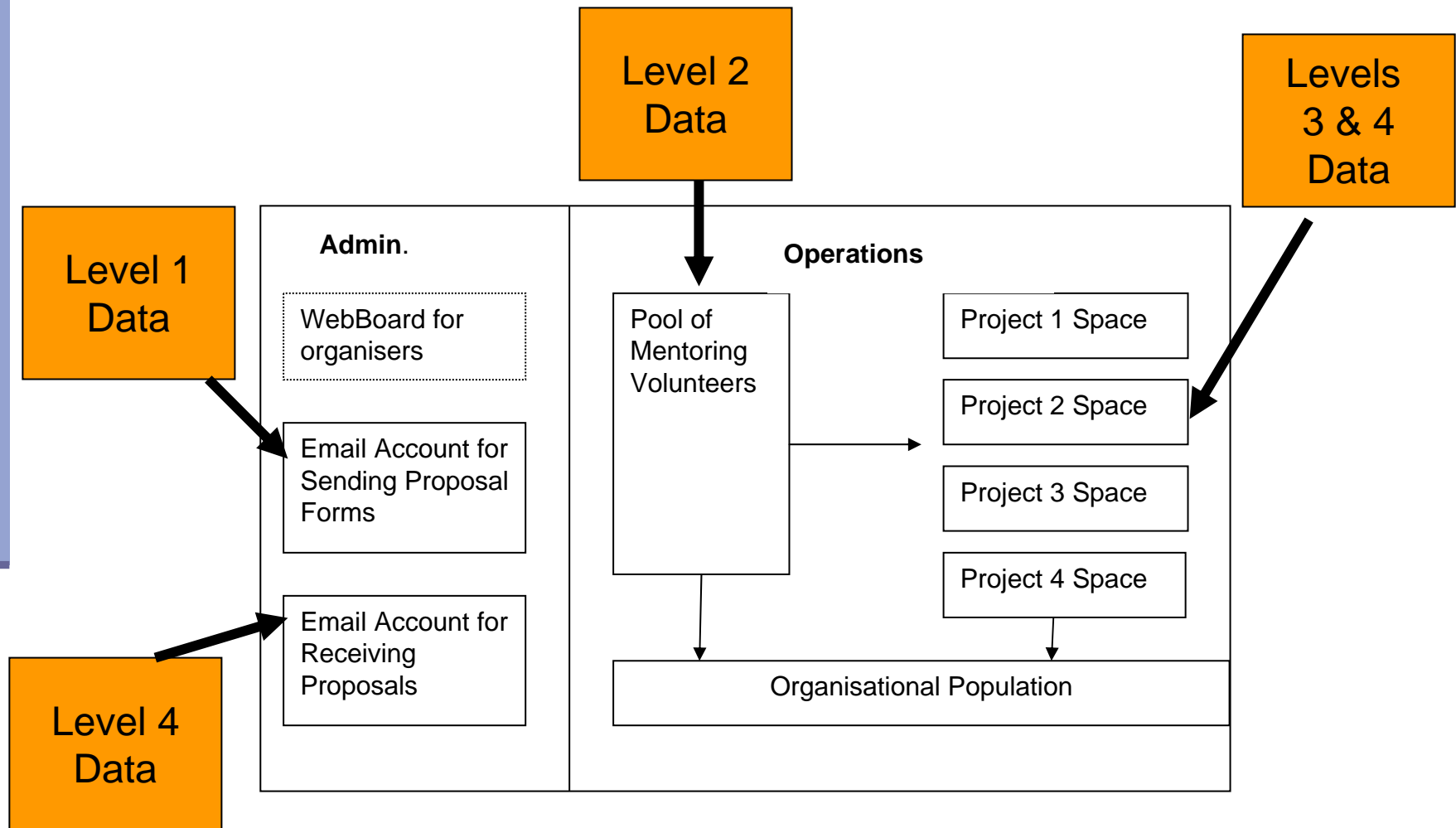


Levels of Possible Involvement





Researching informal learning in online communities

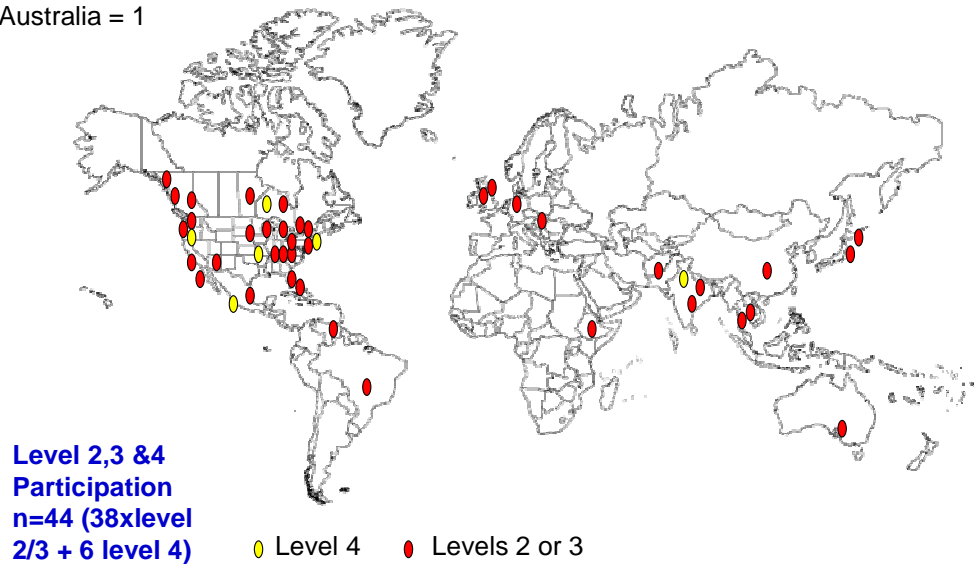


Level 1 Distribution



Distribution of other Levels

Canada = 5+1 (6)
USA = 17+3 (20)
C. & S. America = 3+1 (4)
Europe = 4
Africa = 1
Asia = 8 +1 (9)
Australia = 1





Professional Development Projects

- Design an online course in Blackboard
- Developing A Virtual Think Tank For Africa
- Transform an Online Course from Traditional to Online Mode
- Construct a Resource Base for Remote Communities in India
- Construct an Online Course for an Online Community of Learning Technologists in Mexico
- Evaluate an Online Course and map out a support strategy for the course



Conclusions

<http://waoe.org/mentors>

Emerging Shared Structure

It is a very flexible & social approach to your development

It requires shared responsibility and a changing perception of an online community

It can be sustained across life changes

Emerging Shared Practice



The Realities of Technical Implementation and Support for a Worldwide Online Community of Faculty

Maggie McVay Lynch, Portland State University
WAOE Chief Technical Officer



Coordination of Working Groups

Providing a means for:

- Relationship development
- Team development
- Capacity building
- Decision-making



Coordination of Activities

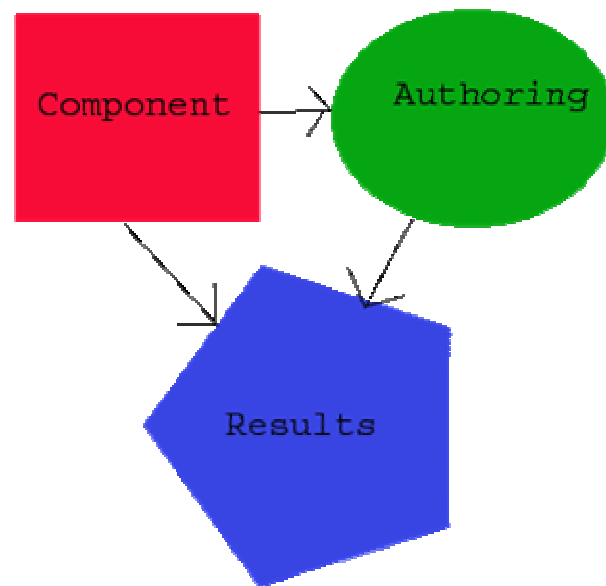
- Workflow control Limited server access
- Identifying concurrent activities ... website
- Ensuring each activity has sufficient technical support ... CTO and other volunteer officers



Artifact Control

Addressing the problems:

- Component integration
 - LMS
 - Web-conferencing
 - Website
 - Database
 - Security
- Distributed authoring
 - HTML
 - Documents
 - List-serves, BB, Wiki?
- Results visibility
 - Search & retrieve under development





Communication Support

- Enhancing information exchange within project teams, and dissemination to membership and eventually to the world
 - Members-only
 - Public access
 - Content Management
 - Asynchronous and Synchronous Support 24/7 ?

The screenshot shows the WAOE website with a blue header and a left sidebar. The main content area is titled 'Member Current Projects' and contains two project descriptions. The sidebar lists various navigation links.

WAOE World Association for Online Education
Join WAOE Membership Organization Communication **Members Only**

Member Current Projects

An important part of networking is to involve other WAOE members in projects. Links projects are provided below. These current projects may be research or grant partner discussions, ongoing model development, or any other project in which you are network WAOE members.

Aboriginal Community Development through Internet Use
WAOE Member: [David Wyatt](#), David Wyatt & Associates, Australia
Installation of computers in Aboriginal communities and development of Internet skills as a basis for the World Wide Web for community development - eg online banking, education and training, building promoting cultural tourism, submitting applications for grants, liaising with government agencies.

Monisha Project of MEET
WAOE Member: [Ashok Banerji](#) of Monisha Electronic Education Trust (MEET), India
The Monisha Project is an ICT application activity for mass education targeted towards building a digital alleviation of poverty in developing countries. The project is being initiated in Calcutta, West Bengal, concepts and principles of EPSS (electronic performance support systems) and built upon years' of Virtual Laboratories, Multimedia Learning Systems, developing EPSS for Industry and for education, participation from people in this philanthropic project. Let us make a difference for the citizens of tomorrow.

Firat University Virtual Learning Environment (FUVLE)
WAOE Member: [Bunvamin Atici](#), University of Firat, Turkey

OF ALL COUNTRIES theodore
Welcome
Member Bios
Current Projects
Mentoring Projects
Looking for Partners
Conferences
Change my Member Information
Questions?



Future Plans

- Learning object sharing, management, and dissemination
- Membership database interface that allows for more specific searching
- Devising mechanisms for wider membership participation and sharing in multiple languages through automated systems



Unanswered Questions

- How can we insure continuing institutional support of server needs?
- Is it possible to continue to deal with the growing complexity of technical needs without paid staff?
- How can we develop a larger cadre of active members that can backup current leaders and insure ongoing access and development, as well as organizational leadership?